



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 03 April 2007

Current
Nationwide
Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF
TERRORIST ATTACKS

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Daily Highlights

- Researchers on March 21 announced that the systems which control dams, oil refineries, railroads, and nuclear power plants have a vulnerability that could be used to cause a denial of service or a system takeover. (See item [6](#))
- The Department of Homeland Security on Monday, April 2, released an interim final rule that imposes for the first time comprehensive federal security regulations for high risk chemical facilities. (See item [7](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *April 03, Times West Virginian* — **New tracking system proven.** Three months after they glued button-sized radio frequency identification, or RFID, tags to the hard hats of more than 2,000 of its underground coal miners, a top Alliance Coal official says the company — and its miners — are “very pleased” with their new tracking system. The new tracking system — which improves on tracking systems used in Australia — probably wouldn’t survive a worst-case scenario, such the methane explosion January 2, 2006 at the Sago Mine, Mark Watson of Alliance Coal acknowledges. Neither would any other known system, however, which shows the dilemma the nation’s underground coal producers face since the loss of 12

miners at Sago. The industry's rescue and safety practices have been in the national spotlight since. A key issue is whether Alliance and other producers should spend hundreds of thousands of dollars on communications and tracking systems available now or work on developing "next-generation" systems.

Source: http://www.timeswv.com/local/local_story_091005553.html

2. *April 02, Platts Energy Bulletin* — **U.S. could add 23,000 MW of hydro capacity by 2025: EPRI.** U.S. hydropower capacity could increase by about 23,000 MW by 2025, according to a study released Monday, April 1, by the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI). The study reviewed the possible contributions of waterpower technologies to U.S. renewable energy supplies by 2010 and 2025 and found potential for generation expansion at existing facilities, at dams without powerhouses, at new small and low-power developments and from new technologies such as ocean and hydro kinetic power. Hydropower generation already represents 75 percent of the nation's renewable resources. Based on assessments by the Department of Energy, EPRI and industry, the report found that overall resource potential for hydropower in 2025 could range from 85,000 MW to 95,000 MW. EPRI estimates the potential increase could include 10,000 MW from conventional hydropower, 3,000 MW from new hydrokinetic technologies and 10,000 MW from ocean wave energy devices. "These estimates could be significantly increased if economic incentives and regulatory processing for the waterpower technology industry are enhanced," EPRI said.

Source: <http://www.platts.com/Electric%20Power/News/8966636.xml?sub=Electric%20Power&p=Electric%20Power/News>

3. *April 01, Nebraska Public Power District* — **Three additional transmission lines in Nebraska now energized.** Three additional electrical transmission lines, destroyed during the December ice storms, were energized by the Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) over the past two weeks. Work continues on repairing the remaining three transmission lines that are being reconstructed and are expected to be operational prior to the summer peak load. A 115-kV transmission line from North Loup to Spalding, covering 21 miles with 147 rebuilt transmission structures, was energized and returned to service Friday, March 9. Coming back on line March 11, was a 115-kV transmission line between Hildreth and Holdredge spanning 21 additional miles including 109 rebuilt structures. "We still have some work to re-string existing conductors along these lines and tighten conductor that sagged from the weight of the ice, but we are planning to complete this additional work prior to summer peak loading," Barry Campbell, NPPD General Manager of Operations said. "The reconstruction team has made some great strides in a 10-week period." Campbell pointed out that 88 percent of the reconstruction from the December storms has been completed based on the amount of line energized, structures repaired, and wire replaced since December 31.

Source: <http://www.electricnet.com/content/news/article.asp?DocID=%7BE63F5C8F-A60E-41F2-A80F-AD91F5785F0E%7D&Bucket=Current+Headlines&VNETCOOKIE=NO>

4. *March 29, Platts Energy Bulletin* — **Coal shipments on inland waterways expected to pick up.** Harsh February winter weather reduced coal shipments on the nation's inland water system, but industry analysts are expecting coal shipments to pick up this spring as utilities seek to add to their stockpiles ahead of the summer peak coal-burning season. Merrill Lynch analysts Jeff Fidacaro and Ken Hoexter said that the demand for coal from the nation's utilities is expected to

pick up at the end of April following routine shutdowns of plants for maintenance ahead of the summer season. In a March 28 report, they said that utilities try to have 45–50 days of coal inventories into the summer, but were carrying about 39 days of coal supplies as of the end of February. The demand from utilities for coal shipments, along with improved operating conditions on the rivers, will improve the outlook for barge operators, according to the analysts. Source: <http://www.platts.com/Coal/News/6370670.xml?p=Coal/News&sub=Coal>

5. *March 29, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO 07–283: Uncertainty about Future Oil Supply Makes It Important to Develop a Strategy for Addressing a Peak and Decline in Oil Production (Report)**. The U.S. economy depends heavily on oil, particularly in the transportation sector. World oil production has been running at near capacity to meet demand, pushing prices upward. Concerns about meeting increasing demand with finite resources have renewed interest in an old question: How long can the oil supply expand before reaching a maximum level of production—a peak—from which it can only decline? The Government Accountability Office (GAO) examined when oil production could peak; assessed the potential for transportation technologies to mitigate the consequences of a peak in oil production; and examined federal agency efforts that could reduce uncertainty about the timing of a peak or mitigate the consequences. To address these objectives, GAO reviewed studies, convened an expert panel, and consulted agency officials. To better prepare for a peak in oil production, GAO recommends that the Department of Energy work with other agencies to establish a strategy to coordinate and prioritize federal agency efforts to reduce uncertainty about the likely timing of a peak and to advise Congress on how best to mitigate consequences. Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d07283high.pdf>
Source: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d07283.pdf>

6. *March 25, Physorg* — **Vulnerability found in protocol handling vital national infrastructure**. Researchers on March 21 announced that the systems which control dams, oil refineries, railroads and nuclear power plants have a vulnerability that could be used to cause a denial of service or a system takeover. The flaw, reported by Neutralbit, is the first remotely exploitable SCADA (supervisory control and data acquisition) security vulnerability, according to the security services provider. Neutralbit identified the vulnerability in NETxAutomation NETxEIB OPC (OLE for Process Control) Server. OPC is a Microsoft Windows standard for easily writing GUI applications for SCADA. It's used for interconnecting process control applications running on Microsoft platforms. OPC servers are often used in control systems to consolidate field and network device information. Neutralbit reports that the flaw is caused by improper validation of server handles, which could be exploited by an attacker with physical or remote access to the OPC interface to crash an affected application or potentially compromise a vulnerable server. Neutralbit has also recently published five vulnerabilities having to do with OPC. Source: <http://www.physorg.com/news94025004.html>

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Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

7. *April 02, Department of Homeland Security* — **DHS releases comprehensive regulations for securing high risk chemical facilities**. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) on

Monday, April 2, released an interim final rule that imposes for the first time comprehensive federal security regulations for high risk chemical facilities. The department sought and reviewed comments from state and local partners, Congress, private industry, and the public to develop consistent guidelines using a risk-based approach. The new rule gives the department authority to seek compliance through the imposition of civil penalties, of up to \$25,000 per day, and the ability to shut non-compliant facilities down. “The safety and security measures that we take need to be tough and balanced,” said Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff. “We will significantly reduce vulnerability at high-consequence chemical facilities, taking into account important efforts in certain states.”

Interim Final Rule: http://www.dhs.gov/xprevprot/laws/gc_1166796969417.shtm

Source: http://www.dhs.gov/xnews/releases/pr_1175527925540.shtm

8. *March 29, KFVS 12 (MO)* — **Interstate and exits re-open following tanker crash.** A tanker truck crashed with a car in the northbound lanes of I-55 near the Route K exit (exit 96) in Cape Girardeau, MO. Northbound lanes of the interstate were closed at Highway-74 for a few hours as fire and rescue crews worked to bring the blaze under control. Police and witnesses say there was a man in a car who drove the wrong way down the exit ramp and continued the wrong way onto I-55. The tanker tried to swerve to avoid the car and lost control, flipping into the ditch and exploding. The driver of the tanker did receive injuries and was taken to a local hospital. Tuesday night, March 27, both lanes of I-55 northbound and the exit ramp were open to drivers.

Source: <http://www.kfvs12.com/Global/story.asp?S=6287039>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

9. *April 02, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO-07-415: Tactical Aircraft: DoD Needs a Joint and Integrated Investment Strategy (Report).** The Department of Defense (DoD) plans to invest \$109 billion in its tactical air forces between 2007 and 2013. Long term, DoD plans to replace aging legacy aircraft with fewer, more expensive but more capable and stealthy aircraft. Recapitalizing and modernizing tactical air forces within today’s constrained budget environment is a formidable challenge. DoD has already incurred substantial cost and schedule overruns in its acquisition of new systems, and further delays could require billions of dollars in additional investments to keep legacy aircraft capable and sustainable. Because of the large investments and risk, GAO was asked to review investment planning for tactical aircraft. This report describes the current status of DoD’s new tactical aircraft acquisition programs; identifies current impacts on legacy aircraft modernization programs and retirement schedules; and assesses DoD’s overall investment plan for tactical aircraft. To achieve better outcomes in acquisition programs and investment planning, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) recommends that DoD (1) take decisive actions to shorten cycle times in developing and delivering new weapon systems and (2) develop an integrated and affordable enterprise-level investment strategy for tactical air forces.

Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d07415high.pdf>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-415>

April 01, National Defense — **Navy steaming ahead with shipbuilding plans, but costs becoming problematic.** When the Navy unveiled its 30-year shipbuilding blueprint last year, defense watchdogs said the plan carried tremendous risks because it was based upon optimistic assumptions about the affordability of ships and expectations of an increasing budget. The service this year submitted a revision that analysts say will cost even more. And during the past few months, the Navy has hit some rough seas with cost overruns on a crucial surface ship program that is a cornerstone of its shipbuilding plan. Such developments not only threaten to veer the Navy's course away from building its fleet to 313 ships by 2013, but they also validate critics' longheld beliefs that the service's plan is unrealistic and, in the end, may be unfeasible. Source: http://www.nationaldefensemagazine.org/issues/2007/April/Nav_ysteaming.htm

11. *March 30, U.S. Air Force* — **GAO clears way to move forward on CSAR-X.** The Government Accounting Office (GAO) informed Air Force officials Friday, March 30, that all other protest issues surrounding the CSAR-X contract award have been denied. In a March 29 decision, the GAO denied all of the additional arguments raised by Sikorsky and Lockheed Martin Systems Integration, "finding that none furnished an additional basis for sustaining the protests." "This is good news for the Air Force," said Brig. Gen. Michelle Johnson, Air Force spokesperson. "It allows us to focus on the GAO's Feb. 26 recommendation and move forward with our No. 2 acquisition priority." The new combat search and rescue helicopter will replace the Air Force's aging inventory of HH-60G Pavehawk helicopters. Source: <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123047010>
12. *March 29, Government Computer News* — **Army shores up EM spectrum skills.** The ongoing wars in Iraq and Afghanistan — real-world examples of asymmetric warfare — have shown the Army its deficiencies in the area of electromagnetic (EM) spectrum management. Now, the Army is trying to beef up its spectrum capabilities, both in defensive and offensive areas. That could help defend against improvised explosive devices, which have been the leading cause of military deaths since the U.S. invasion of Iraq in March 2003. "This is a critical domain within asymmetric warfare," said Maj. Kalie Rott, deputy branch chief of the new Army Asymmetric Warfare Office, said this month at the Association of the United States Army winter symposium. Enemy fighters are using the EM spectrum against American troops, Rott said, for instance by using remote devices to trigger IEDs. And the insurgents have shown great flexibility in quickly adapting to take advantage of potential weaknesses in U.S. forces' activities. Source: http://www.gcn.com/print/26_06/43321-1.html

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Banking and Finance Sector

13. *March 31, San Francisco Chronicle* — **U.S. Internet fraud at all-time high.** Americans lost a record amount to Internet fraud schemes last year, and the notorious "Nigerian 419" scam is blamed for the largest individual losses. A government report on 2006 Internet crimes also records the sudden emergence of extortionists who use e-mail to deliver ominous threats that grave consequences await unless money is sent. The new federal statistics show that Americans reported losing an all-time high of \$198.4 million to Internet fraud in 2006, up 8 percent from 2005 levels of \$183 million and 191 percent from 2004 levels of \$68 million. Law enforcement

officials believe that actual losses are higher — many victims don't report the crimes because they are embarrassed or afraid to do so. Of the Internet criminals who could be traced to their location, 61 percent resided inside the United States, followed by criminals based in the United Kingdom at 16 percent. Nigeria-based criminals were next at 6 percent. The FBI has received about 159 complaints since the scam emerged, said John Hambrick, the top FBI official at the Internet Crime Complaint Center. The FBI has received no reports of money loss or murder threats that were carried out, he said in an interview.

Report: http://www.ic3.gov/media/annualreport/2006_IC3Report.pdf

Source: http://sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/c/a/2007/03/31/M_NGSCOVGGI1.DTL

- 14. *March 30, Department of Treasury* — Treasury designates ten individuals and entities for their contributions to the conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo.** The Department of Treasury announced Friday, March 30, that the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) has identified seven companies and three individuals as subject to sanctions pursuant to Executive Order (EO) 13413, which targets, among others, individuals and entities determined to have supplied arms contributing to the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) or having provided support to armed militias or the leaders of foreign armed groups operating in the DRC. Three of the designated firms have been found to be owned or controlled by, or acting for or on behalf of, Viktor Bout, an international arms dealer and war profiteer who was named in the Annex to EO 13413 on October 27, 2006. This designation continues OFAC's efforts to disrupt the involvement of the Bout network, one of the largest illicit arms-trafficking networks in the world, in conflicts in the DRC and elsewhere. The companies designated are: Compagnie Aerienne des Grands Lacs, Great Lakes Business Company, Cargo Freight International, Butembo Airlines, Congocom Trading House, Uganda Commercial Impex, and Machanga Ltd. The other individuals designated are Dieudonne Ozia Mazio and Straton Musoni. Friday's action freezes any assets of the designated persons that are within U.S. jurisdiction and also prohibits any transactions between U.S. persons and the designated persons and entities. Source: <http://www.treasury.gov/press/releases/hp334.htm>

- 15. *March 28, Department of Justice* — Somali native sentenced for \$1.3 million illegal money transfers.** Bradley J. Schlozman, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas City, MO, man was sentenced in federal court last week for operating an unlicensed money transfer business which sent more than \$1.3 million overseas, primarily to Somalia. “We take this criminal conduct very seriously as a matter of national security,” Schlozman said. “Somalia is widely considered to be a safe haven and training ground for terrorists, who have taken advantage of the nation’s extraordinarily dangerous and unstable climate to set up their own infrastructure. This security concern compels the United States government to bring a halt to any unlicensed, unregulated and unmonitored cash transfers into Somalia.” The federal indictment contains no allegations about either the source of the illegally transmitted cash or its destination. Serar Ahmed Abdullahi, a taxicab driver, admitted that he collected more than \$1.6 million from the Somali community in the Kansas City area, then transferred that money to another money transmitter in Minnesota as well as a bank account in Switzerland. Those funds were ultimately sent to various recipients in Somalia and elsewhere. Source: <http://kansascity.fbi.gov/dojpressrel/pressrel07/illegalmoney032807.htm>

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Transportation and Border Security Sector

16. *April 02, USA TODAY* — **Airline performance declines for third straight year.** The overall performance of U.S. airlines worsened in 2006, its third consecutive year of decline, according to the 17th annual Airline Quality Ratings released on Monday, April 2. Its performance fell in three of the four categories measured by the study: on-time arrival, involuntary bumping, and mishandled luggage. The customer complaint rate was flat. Among individual airlines, the study rated Hawaiian Airlines the best performer last year. The study rated 18 airlines for 2006, the first year that Hawaiian was large enough to be included. JetBlue, which has experienced severe operational problems for a week in February, was the second best performer, missing out on the top spot for the first time in four years. The industry rating for 2006 is the lowest since 2000, one of the worst years ever for airline service. Customer service was so bad that year that Congress considered adopting a passengers' bill of rights to force change. Similar proposals have resurfaced in recent months as airlines continue to experience severe delays and leave passengers stuck on loaded planes for hours.
Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2007-04-02-airline-quality-report_N.htm
17. *April 02, Orange County Register (CA)* — **Man arrested after running on airport runway.** A transient was arrested for trespassing after he hopped a fence at John Wayne Airport in Santa Ana, CA, and ran around the airfield for several minutes Thursday, March 29, airport officials said. Rene Nolasco Molina, 33, of Santa Ana is being held at the Theo Lacy Facility without bail. A pilot getting ready to take off spotted a man running around on the runway about 6:30 p.m. PDT, airport spokesperson Jenny Wedge said. The pilot called the tower, and sheriff's deputies who patrol the airport chased him down and arrested him, Wedge said. A plane trying to take off was delayed for a few minutes while the chase was on, she said, but no other airport operations were affected.
Source: http://www.ocregister.com/ocregister/homepage/abox/article_1637569.php
18. *March 30, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO-07-445: Aviation Security: Cost Estimates Related to TSA Funding of Checked Baggage Screening Systems at Los Angeles and Ontario Airports (Report).** To meet the mandate to screen all checked baggage for explosives by December 31, 2003, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) placed minivan-sized explosive detection systems (EDS) and other screening equipment in airport lobbies. However, these interim lobby solutions have caused operational inefficiencies, in part because they require a large number of screeners. According to TSA, in-line baggage screening—where EDS machines are integrated with an airport's baggage conveyor system—can be a more cost-effective and efficient alternative to lobby-based, stand-alone equipment. For example, in-line systems can increase the efficiency of airport, airline, and TSA operations, and lower costs by reducing the number of screeners. Moreover, in-line explosive detection systems can enhance security because they reduce congestion in airport lobbies, thus removing a potential target for terrorists. However, installing in-line systems can have large up-front costs, related to the need for airport modifications. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) provided a draft of this report to Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for review and comment. LAWA provided written comments, which GAO has included in their entirety in appendix III. DHS provided no written comments. TSA provided e-mail comments. In addition, LAWA and TSA provided technical comments concerning facts in the report, which was incorporated as

appropriate.

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-445>

19. *March 30, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO-07-540RL: Homeland Security: Information on Training New Border Patrol Agents (Correspondence).** The U.S. Border Patrol is responsible for patrolling 8,000 miles of the land and coastal borders of the United States to detect and prevent the illegal entry of aliens and contraband, including terrorists and weapons of mass destruction. Although the Border Patrol apprehends hundreds of thousands of people entering the country illegally each year, several hundreds of thousands more individuals successfully enter the country illegally and undetected each year. Concerned about the ability of the Border Patrol's basic training program to accommodate this significant increase in Border Patrol agent trainees, Congress requested that the Government Accountability Office (GAO) provide information on the content, quality, and cost of the Border Patrol's basic training program for new agents. This report addresses such questions and concluded that the basic training program exhibits the attributes of an effective training program, and the average cost to train a Border Patrol agent is in line with that of other similar law enforcement training programs. However, the Border Patrol's plan to hire an unprecedented number of new agents over the next two years could strain the sectors' ability to provide adequate supervision and training. The large influx of new agents and the planned transfer of more experienced agents to the northern border could further exacerbate the already higher than desired agent-to-supervisor ratio in some southwest sectors.
Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-540R>

20. *March 29, Department of Transportation* — **U.S., Argentina add flights.** The United States and Argentina have agreed to a major expansion of air service that will double the number of possible passenger flights between the two countries over the next two years, U.S. Secretary of Transportation Mary E. Peters announced on Thursday, March 29. The new agreement, which was reached after talks in Washington held March 20–22, is expected to take effect within the next few weeks. Once in effect, the airlines of both countries will be able to increase the number of weekly U.S.–Argentina passenger flights from 56 to 77 immediately, and to 112 by March 2009. The agreement also allows for an unlimited number of passenger charter flights between the two countries and provides for expanded code-share services. It also gives airlines increased flexibility in setting fares for U.S.–Argentina flights.
Source: <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/dot3307.htm>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

21. *April 02, Associated Press* — **United Airlines to carry U.S. mail.** UAL Corp., parent of United Airlines, on Monday, April 2, said it has received a four-year contract to carry mail for the U.S. Postal Service in a deal worth up to \$400 million. United will move domestic mail for the Postal Service from April 28, 2007 through September 30, 2011. Its previous domestic mail contract expired in June last year. The airline also carries international mail for the Postal Service.
Source: <http://www.businessweek.com/ap/financialnews/D8O8G7T83.htm>

Agriculture Sector

22. *April 02, Associated Press* — **States work to rid land of feral swine.** Wild hogs roaming through at least 39 states are lately alarming wildlife officials by their population growth in northern states, such as Iowa and Michigan. Feral swine, numbering an estimated four million nationwide, can spread disease if they come in contact with domestic pigs. That's a big concern in Iowa, which boasts the top pork production in the nation. The rooting and wallowing activities of the creatures, which tear apart the earth to search for food, have also forced some farmers to repeatedly replant fields. While feral swine have plagued warmer states for years, they are a recent problem in Iowa, with wildlife officials working to eradicate them since 2004. About 100 of the animals are thought to be in southern Iowa, and officials said because they are such prolific breeders, 70 percent must be killed off each year just to keep that number in check. Under a national wildlife disease management program, researchers will collect and test wild pigs in up to 25 states to look for the presence of classical swine fever. The USDA is also studying how the animals might spread disease to domestic hogs and are developing ways to deliver vaccines in bait.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/04/02/AR2007040200282.html>

23. *April 01, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service* — **Bird flu detected in West Virginia.** On Saturday, March 31, 2007, the National Veterinary Services Laboratories confirmed that test results for samples collected the day before from turkeys at a farm in West Virginia are indicative of exposure to an H5N2 avian influenza virus. The samples were collected as part of routine, pre-slaughter surveillance. The turkeys showed no signs of illness and there was no mortality.

Source: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/newsroom/content/2007/04/lpai.shtm1>

Food Sector

24. *March 30, Agence France-Presse* — **Olympics: Officials say diners still at risk from food poisoning.** Food safety standards are rising in Beijing, China, but visitors to next year's Olympics still risk exposure to contaminated products, officials said Friday, March 30. Outbreaks of food poisoning affect 300 million people in China every year. But stricter testing and broader food safety monitoring introduced ahead of the August 8–24 2008 Olympics have reduced the dangers, officials said. Food security will be tight for athletes and officials at the games. Round-the-clock guards will be on duty in Olympic kitchens, food storage areas will be under video surveillance and food transport vehicles will be fitted with global positioning systems and secure food compartments. White mice will be used to test food destined to be consumed by the athletes. Outside Olympic venues, however, the risks are greater. Experts say Chinese-grown produce is often contaminated by farmers using medicine, food additives and banned drugs like anabolic steroids to improve their crops and livestock. Last September 336

people fell sick in Shanghai after eating pork contaminated with anabolic steroids.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20070330/hl_afp/oly2008foodhealth_070330201011;_ylt=AvafZM7QbCQjbclXITVadZCJOrgF

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Water Sector

25. *March 31, CBC News (Canada)* — **Derailed train spills acid into Ontario river.** Residents along a section of river in Northern Ontario, Canada, have been advised not to use its water after about 100 tons of sulphuric acid spilled from a derailed train. Two-dozen cars of an Ontario Northland train jumped the tracks on Friday, March 30. Nine cars carrying sulphuric acid went off the tracks. One of the cars spilled its entire contents, estimated to be about 100 tons, and four cars were still leaking acid on Saturday, March 31, into the Blanche River. The Timiskaming health unit is advising residents south of the spill that the river water has been contaminated and should not be used even to water livestock.

Source: <http://www.cbc.ca/canada/toronto/story/2007/03/31/acid-spill.html>

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Public Health Sector

26. *April 02, Agence France-Presse* — **Asia practices bird flu response.** Over 1,000 experts from Southeast Asia, Japan and the World Health Organization (WHO) took part Monday, April 2, in an exercise to sharpen response to any future bird flu pandemic. The exercise involved a supposed outbreak of the human strain of bird flu in a fictitious area of Cambodia, where about 9,500 people in 20 villages were at risk of getting infected. The exercise focused on the rapid fielding of personnel to contain the threat. In the simulation, goggles and masks were "dispatched" from a stockpile managed by a private contractor in Singapore to Cambodia. "The exercise ... is a test of rapid communications within the partners taking part: ASEAN, Japan, Cambodia, and WHO," said WHO spokesperson Peter Cordingley.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20070402/hl_afp/healthfluwhoexercise_070402080639;_ylt=Av5OGpU.u8wbidJmgm_108GJOrgF

27. *April 02, BBC News* — **Blood groups can be converted.** Scientists have developed a way of converting one blood group into another. The technique potentially enables blood from groups A, B and AB to be converted into group O, which can be safely transplanted into any patient. The method, which makes use of newly discovered enzymes, may help relieve shortages of blood for transfusions. The blood cells of people with group A and B blood contain one of two different sugar molecules — known as antigens — which can trigger an immune system response. People with AB blood have both types of molecule, while those with group O blood have neither. People produce antibodies against the antigens they lack. This means groups A, B and AB can only be given to patients with compatible blood, while O can be given to anyone. The new technique works by using bacterial enzymes to cut sugar molecules from the surface of red blood cells.

Research: <http://www.nature.com/nbt/journal/vaop/ncurrent/full/nbt1298.html>

Source: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/health/6517137.stm>

28. *March 30, Associated Press* — **Dengue surging in Mexico, Latin America.** The deadly hemorrhagic form of dengue fever is increasing dramatically in Mexico, and experts predict a surge throughout Latin America. Overall dengue cases have increased by more than 600 percent in Mexico since 2001, and worried officials are sending special teams to tourist resorts to spray pesticides and remove garbage and standing water where mosquitoes breed ahead of the peak Easter Week vacation season. Even classic dengue can cause severe flu-like symptoms, excruciating joint pain, high fever, nausea and rashes. More alarming is that a deadly hemorrhagic form of the disease, which adds internal and external bleeding to the symptoms — is becoming more common. It accounts for one in four cases in Mexico, compared with one in 50 seven years ago, according to Mexico's Public Health Department. Latin America's hospitals are ill-equipped to handle major outbreaks, and officials say the virus is likely to grow deadlier, in part because tourism and migration are circulating four different strains across the region. A person exposed to one strain may develop immunity to that strain — but subsequent exposure to another strain makes it more likely the person will develop the hemorrhagic form.

Dengue information: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/dengue/index.htm>

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/wire/sns-ap-mexico-deadly-dengue.1.2261976.story?coll=sns-ap-world-headlines>

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Government Sector

Nothing to report.

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Emergency Services Sector

29. *April 02, Government Accountability Office* — **GAO-07-301: First Responders: Much Work Remains to Improve Communications Interoperability.** As the first to respond to natural disasters, domestic terrorism, and other emergencies, public safety agencies rely on timely communications across multiple disciplines and jurisdictions. It is vital to the safety and effectiveness of first responders that their electronic communications systems enable them to communicate with whomever they need to, when they need to, and when they are authorized to do so. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) was asked to determine, among other things, (1) the extent to which Department of Homeland Security (DHS) funding and technical assistance has helped to improve interoperable communications in selected states and (2) the progress that has been made in the development and implementation of interoperable communications standards. To address these objectives, GAO reviewed grant information, documentation of selected states' and localities' interoperability projects, and standards documents. GAO is making recommendations to DHS, which include assessing how states' grant requests support statewide communications plans and modifying its guidance on acquiring interoperable equipment. DHS disagreed with the latter recommendation, but GAO believes that it is important to provide more flexibility until completed subsets of standards

have been fully defined.

Highlights: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d07301high.pdf>

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-301>

30. *April 01, Honolulu Star Bulletin* — **Instruments that can better anticipate a quake-caused tsunami to be tested in Hawaii.** In Hawaii, emergency agencies will test a new technology in an exercise Monday, April 2, focusing on a potential tsunami-generating Big Island earthquake, says Edward Teixeira, state Civil Defense vice director. Planned as part of Tsunami Awareness Month and coinciding with monthly Civil Defense siren tests, the exercise offers a chance to use some new instruments in the warning system. The system must be ready to respond rapidly, since there is "no tsunami season and no advance notice that a big earthquake is about to happen," said Charles "Chip" McCreery, geophysicist-in-charge, Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. With more federal money for the tsunami warning system, geophysicist Brian Shiro said, 12 new broadband seismometers are being installed throughout the islands, each with a strong motion seismometer known as an accelerometer. Four have been installed, including the first seismometer on Kauai, and others are in the works.

Source: <http://starbulletin.com/2007/04/01/news/story02.html>

31. *March 31, Capital-Journal (KS)* — **Software glitch breaks police radio communications.** The Topeka, KS, Police Department lost its communication capabilities from about 1:30 a.m. to 3:30 a.m. CST on Thursday, March 27. The software glitch left department personnel with the ability to transmit radio messages, but unable to receive them. The department went into Emergency Radio Procedures, in essence going to conventional radio systems. Most of the organizations that use the system were unaffected because they weren't in operation during the crash.

Source: http://cjonline.com/stories/033107/loc_159884280.shtml

32. *March 29, Federal Bureau of Investigation* — **Two indicted in Louisiana on fraud charges related to a hurricane disaster relief program.** Two more Louisiana residents were indicted in federal court Thursday, March 29, on fraud charges related to a hurricane disaster relief program, announced United States Attorney David R. Dugas. The two were each charged in a two-count indictment by a federal grand jury with making a false and fraudulent claim for disaster assistance benefits and with making false and fraudulent statements to FEMA. The charges in these cases resulted from an investigation conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Department of Homeland Security's Office of Inspector General. These indictments bring the total number of individuals who have been charged in the Middle District of Louisiana with violations related to hurricane disaster relief funds to one hundred.

Source: <http://neworleans.fbi.gov/dojpressrel/2007/no032907.htm>

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Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

33. *April 02, Computerworld* — **Microsoft to patch animated cursor bug early.** Microsoft will patch the increasingly dangerous Windows animated cursor vulnerability Tuesday, April 3, a week early, a spokesperson of the company's security team said Sunday. The announcement

followed a weekend of escalating warnings from security organizations and reports from China's Internet Security Response Team (CISRT) of a worm in the wild using the unpatched vulnerability. Symantec Corp. and other antivirus companies confirmed the existence of the Fubalca worm Sunday. Over the weekend, a number of events showed the speed with which attackers were moving. First, exploit source code was publicly posted on a security mailing list, then McAfee Inc. said it had seen at least one spam run that linked to the exploit, and finally, Websense Inc. claimed that it had spotted more than 100 malicious sites spreading the exploit, a tenfold increase over the day before. On Saturday, Microsoft's Security Response Center (MSRC) added Windows Server 2003 Service Pack 2 to the long list of Windows editions affected by the bug. The emergency fix, pegged as MS07-017, will be released through Microsoft's normal channels.

Microsoft Security Bulletin Advance Notification:

<http://www.microsoft.com/technet/security/bulletin/advance.mspx>

Additional reporting on the issue from the Internet Storm Center: <http://isc.sans.org/>

Source: <http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9015281>

34. *April 02, InformationWeek* — **The Netsky family of worms had the biggest impact on the Internet in March.** While new malware threats littered the Internet last month, it was a three-year-old worm that caused the most trouble. The Netsky family of worms had the biggest impact in March, according to Sophos. The worms, which first appeared in March of 2004, accounted for one-third of all malware in circulation for the entire month. Overall, Sophos detected 8,835 new threats in March, bringing the total protected against to 231,548. Analysts also found that 0.18% or one in 555 e-mails, was infected with malware, a number that has dropped dramatically over the past year or two. According to Sophos analysts, these numbers indicate that while malware spread via e-mail is still causing trouble, the vectors used to distribute threats are changing. Hackers are continuing their move away from mass-mailing worms in favor of using spam messages with links pointing to infected Web pages. "Since December 2006, we have seen some remarkable changes in the countries hosting the most malware," said Theriault. "China has taken the lead from the United States, but more dramatically, the United Kingdom, which hosted less than 1% in December is now responsible for more than 5%."

Source: <http://www.informationweek.com/news/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=198701817>

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us-cert.gov.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons Sector

35. *April 02, Associated Press* — **Suspicious fire destroys New York synagogue.** Authorities are

investigating a suspicious fire on Sunday, April 1, that destroyed the synagogue of an anti-Zionist Jewish group that had been heavily criticized for attending a conference in Iran last year where participants debated the Holocaust. No one was injured in Sunday night's fire. A senior Neturei Karta rabbi and his family, who lived on the top floor of the three-story structure, were not home. "It may in the future be found to be accidental, but at this time we're treating it as a suspicious fire and we're investigating it as such," said Sgt. Daniel Hyman of the Ramapo Police Department, which serves the suburban community of Monsey, about 35 miles north of New York City. Neturei Karta had been the target of threats in the past because of its involvement in the anti-Zionism movement.

Source: http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/S/SYNAGOGUE_FIRE?SITE=WUSA&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT

- 36. *April 02, Evening Sun Reporter (PA)* — Pipe bomb found at area reservoir.** The Pennsylvania State Police bomb squad responded to the Milesburg Reservoir in Franklin Township, PA, Sunday, April 1, after a pipe bomb was found. An unknown person made the pipe bomb using plastic pipe and fireworks, then took it to the reservoir on Milesburg Road to set it off, state police said. When the bomb failed to explode, the person left the scene. The state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources saw the bomb at the reservoir and reported it to state police. The bomb was dismantled.

Source: http://www.eveningsun.com/localnews/ci_5575844

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General Sector

Nothing to report.

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To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Web page at www.us-cert.gov.

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